

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 21, 2004 has been received and reviewed by the applicant. Claims 1-5 are in the application. Claims 1-5 stand rejected. Original claims 1-5 are canceled. Claims 6-10 are added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

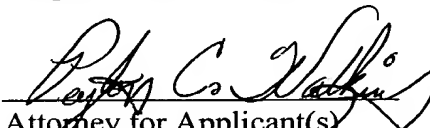
The rejection states that why 8 counts equals 1 millivolt and why the hopping magnitude is about 1.75 millivolt is unclear. In regard to 8 digital counts equals 1 millivolt, it is respectfully submitted that this is the scale for Fig. 1a. In regard to "the hopping magnitude is about 1.75 millivolt," it is noted that the 386 counts on page 1, line 24 is subtracted from the 372 counts on page 1, line 23, and the result (14 counts) is divided the 8 counts (page 1, line 24) gives a final result of 1.75 millivolt.

The rejection states that Katoh et al. disclose 1-2 and 4, and Katoh et al. and Aufrichtig et al. disclose 3 and 5. As understood by Applicants, Katoh et al. disclose capturing one or more images and comparing each captured image to a threshold. In contrast, the invention as now claimed captures two or more images, calculates a difference between the substantially maximum and minimum values from the two captured images (delta values), and compares the delta values with a threshold for determining the hopping pixels. It is pointed out the white spot noise pixel in Katoh et al. is not a hopping pixel as in the claimed invention. The hopping pixel of the claimed invention is defined on page 1, lines 12-13.

Should the Examiner consider that additional amendments are necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the favor is requested of a telephone call to the undersigned counsel for the purpose of discussing such amendments.

For the reasons set forth above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 36,390

Peyton C. Watkins/mjl
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-477-8282
Facsimile: 585-477-4646